

Summary of the National Bio and Agrodefense Facility
June 29, 2006

On March 20, 2006, Governor Haley Barbour announced that Mississippi is in the hunt to locate a multibillion-dollar National Bio and Agrodefense Facility (NBAF) in Hinds, Madison or Rankin counties.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is seeking to replace the aging and increasingly costly Plum Island Animal Disease Center on Long Island, New York, which was built in the 1950s. This is a federal laboratory that conducts research into foreign animal diseases, such as avian flu and foot and mouth disease, and develops countermeasures for potential bioterrorism.

Governor Barbour announced that multiple consortiums, including Mississippi, Texas, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Georgia, will compete for this project by making proposals to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The new lab will include research partnerships with the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services.

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the United States currently lacks the capability to study high consequence zoonotic diseases, or diseases such as avian flu carried by animals that can infect humans.

NBAF would:

- utilize 500,000 square feet of enclosed laboratory space on about 150 acres
- employ approximately 400 people, including more than 200 scientists as well as technicians and support staff
- be a \$500 million construction project
- provide an average salary of approximately \$75,000 per year
- have a total payroll of approximately \$30.5 million per year
- have a Biosafety Level 4 (BL-4) designation—the nation's highest rating. (Currently, the University of Mississippi, Mississippi State University, and the University of Mississippi Medical Center already have BL-3 laboratories. The Centers for Disease Control in downtown Atlanta is a BL-4 facility)

The Governor's Office, Mississippi Development Authority, Mississippi's Congressional Delegation, and the Metro Jackson Chamber of Commerce are part of a consortium that includes:

- o The University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy
- o Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine
- o University of Mississippi Medical Center
- o Jackson State University
- o Battelle Memorial Institute, a not-for-profit trust based in Columbus, Ohio, that operates one of the world's largest research enterprises and manages or co-manages five Department of Energy-sponsored labs.

Based on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's criteria, Governor Barbour announced on March 20 that the Mississippi Development Authority has chosen three potential sites for the facility:

- Hinds County near Byram
- Madison County near Flora
- Rankin County near Brandon

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's major site selection criteria are:

- access to university research and facilities
- location near an international airport
- quality of life for top scientific researchers including housing, schools, cultural events, recreation and entertainment
- ability to support and absorb a major research institution

Timeline:

- the deadline for submitting final expressions of interest to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security was March 31, 2006
- the list of possible locations is being announced today, June 29, 2006
- final site selection will occur in 2007
- construction will begin in 2008
- construction should be completed in 2012

NBAF will have multiple positive impacts on the Metro Jackson area:

- in addition to construction, at least \$30 million per year in federal funding
- attract businesses to support the facility
- prompt a biotech industry in the area
- bring a highly educated workforce to the area